

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****OCT 12 2006**IN THE CLAIMS:**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (previously presented) An apparatus for treating coal-bed-methane water, the apparatus comprising:

a pump delivering coal-bed-methane water from at least one coal-bed-methane well into a reservoir;

a generator producing aqueous sulfurous acid to treat the coal-bed-methane water contained in the reservoir; and

an injection system injecting soluble gypsum into the coal-bed-methane water to further treat the coal-bed-methane water.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a control system to control a water flow rate through the generator to achieve a desired concentration of sulfurous acid.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the control system comprises a pH sensor to ascertain the pH of the coal-bed-methane water being treated; a controller connected to the pH sensor to receive a signal representative of the pH, comparing the signal to a set point for a desired water pH, and providing an output control signal, to a control means to adjust the water flow rate to achieve a desired concentration of sulfurous acid.